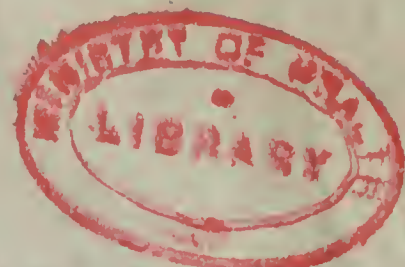


## Annual Sanitary Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1939.



To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I have the honour to submit my report for 1939.

In a letter dated July 19th, 1940 from the Ministry of Health I have been instructed as follows:-

"In view of the increased pressure of work in the public health departments of local Authorities and the need for strict economy of paper the Minister considers that interim reports only should be made for the year 1939. They may be typewritten if desired and should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year, especially any matters arising from the war, outbreaks of infectious disease and any exceptional administrative measures taken or recommended by the Medical Officer of Health."

Statistics are not to be included in this interim report but are to be preserved.

Since nothing of any great urgency affecting the public health occurred during 1939 my report will be very brief indeed.

No serious epidemics occurred but there was a small though troublesome outbreak of diphtheria in the sparsely populated North-West corner of the District. Gussage, Cashmoor and Woodyates were the villages chiefly affected. There was some reason to suspect Gussage St. Michael School as the means of dissemination and one of the children attending this school was discovered to be a carrier in October. The outbreak lasted from June to November and included about 14 cases of diphtheria of a rather severe type.

Free immunisation of school children against diphtheria was sanctioned by the Council during the year. Good progress was made and by the end of the year about half the schools had been done. Parents' response to the offer was perhaps not so good as it should have been. Consent was obtained for approximately 56 per cent of the children attending the schools which were immunised. As immunisation is still going on I will not attempt to give exact figures and percentages until the end of 1940.

The Council's housing schemes and sewerage scheme were of necessity postponed owing to the war.

A few hundred evacuated children and an unknown number of billeted troops swelled the population during the last four months of the year without any ill effects on the public health.

